

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Cole et al.

Serial No.: 09/904,061

Examiner: Corbett B. Coburn

Filed: July 12, 2001

Group Art Unit: 3714

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ALLOWING
UNINTERRUPTED GAMING

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the final Office Action of January 30, 2003, and is timely filed with a one month extension.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Claims 1-47 are pending in the present application. Claims 11-19, 22-25, 27-33, 35-44, and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Acres (U.S. Patent No. 6,312,333). Claims 1, 2, and 4-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,505,461) in view of Acres (U.S. Patent No. 6,312,333). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Bell et al., and further in view of Bergeron et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,882,473) and Pease et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,326,104). Claims 20, 21, 26, 34, 45, and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Acres (U.S. Patent No. 6,312,333), and further in view of Bergeron et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,882,473) and Pease et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,326,104). The title has been objected to as not descriptive.

Claims 1, 11, 23, 24, 29, and 36 have been amended. No claims have been added. Claims 48-50 were previously deleted. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected specification and claims. Applicant respectfully contends that the differences between

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the claimed invention and the prior art are such that the claimed invention is patentably distinct over the prior art.